

PineBrookWood ORCAS

Whale Tales



Volume 15 Issue 1

May 25, 2010

Inside this issue:

Message from the President	1
Coaches Corner	2
Volunteer Information	2
Note from the Clerk	3
Important Dates	4
Picture Information	4
T-Shirts & Caps, tXtBlaster, Concessions	4

From the President

Dear Orca Swimmers and Parents:

What a successful practice meet we had on Saturday! It was great to see all of our kids diving off our new blocks and racing again in our pool. All of our volunteers did an awesome job as well. I know many of you are new to the team or were doing a new volunteer position, but the meet ran very smoothly. There are a few things we need to work on before our first regular season meet, but based on Saturday, it's going to be a very successful season all around.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Orca board. You will see all of us wearing our white with red board shirts during the meet. This great group of individuals has been working since September to get ready for the season:

Lee Ann Kerr - VP, Head of coaching	Joe Swingle - Treasurer
Jessica Slater - Secretary	Sharon Marston - Clerk of Course
Rob Plaza - Operations	Jill Johnson - Volunteer Coordinator
Bill Smith - Sponsorship	Gloria Young - Roster and Registration
Greg Finch - CCSL Representative	Chris Woodard - Head Coach

There will be several openings in the board for the 2011 season, so if you are interested in joining our team (and we would love to have you), contact me or one of the other board members.

Our first regular season meet will be Saturday, June 5, home against the Baytown Buccaneers. It will be very similar to this past Saturday, but with twice the number of swimmers! Remember to let Coach Chris (headcoach@pinebrookwoodorcas.org) and Jill Johnson, volunteer coordinator, (volunteers@pinebrookwoodorcas.org) know if you will be missing all or part of the meet. You did an excellent job of communicating this past weekend, and that makes both of their jobs easier.

I believe this season may be one of our most competitive and successful seasons yet. Thank-you for all your efforts to get the kids to daily practices, and for working so hard at your volunteer job during the meet. The swim season would not be possible without you.

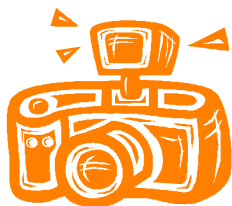
Go Orcas!

Debbie Rudisill

Picture Day

Mark your calendars
for

Monday, June 7



4:00 p.m.

Individual Pictures

5:00 p.m.

Team Pictures

PineBrookwood vs. Baytown

The meet with Baytown on Saturday, June 5, starts at 8:00am. Check-in is at 6:30am at our home Pine Brook pool. PLEASE BE ON TIME! It is extremely important if you are leaving early, that you tell us at the Clerk Table before the meet AND come by to check out before leaving. I know other sports and activities are still ongoing and you may have to leave early. PLEASE CHECK OUT BEFORE YOU GO!!!!

A-Gleam will be there selling suits.

Coaches Corner by Chris Woodard

I would like to congratulate everyone on what I thought was a very productive meet. With the number of new swimmers we have on the team, this is exactly what everyone swim meet, and a number of swimmers found did have a number of disqualifications on Saturday for - finding ways to improve our strokes. DQ's from this weekend so that we will be ready



As far as our meet check-in goes, I many people followed the exact procedure from their label, so make sure that you get your parent hand. Also, be sure to get there by 6:30 because our check-in ends at 7 and that's when we start our scratches. If you're going to be late or it looks like you're not going to make it, you can call me at 832-221-1487.

A lot of parents learned the ins and outs of a some things they need to work on for our next meet. We day, but don't worry about it. That's exactly what meets During these next 2 weeks, we're going to focus on our for our first meet against Baytown.

thought that everything went well. I'm glad to see that so the email. There were a few swimmers that forgot to get label first before you get your events written on your

Don't forget about meet sign-ups. Please be sure that you only mark one event that you want to swim and one event that you don't, excluding relays. All other events and relays will be decided by myself or Coach Bo. If you fail to mark the sign-up correctly, then I will choose all of your events for you. For anyone that was not at the meet or failed to sign-up for our meet against Baytown, you can email me at headcoach@pinebrookwoodorcas.org.

At our first meet we will start our Orca Spirit Awards. The awards will consist of two blow up Orcas, one for a boy and one for a girl, and we will give these out at each dual meet. Our coaches will be looking for swimmers with the best signs, cheering for their teammates and overall showing that they have team spirit. Swimmers that are selected will receive an award and they will also have their name posted in the next newsletter. Although you can only win once during the season, we still need you to cheer for your teammates all season!

Go Orcas!
Coach Chris

Volunteer Information from Jill Johnson

I would like to send out a HUGE THANKS to all of you who helped work the Intrasquad meet this past Saturday. I believe it ran smoothly considering many of you were new to your positions and we had a large amount of no shows. A lot of our new families just jumped right in, I was really impressed! Your hard work was greatly appreciated.

Please remember to email me of any changes you might have as early as possible so that I can complete an accurate volunteer schedule for the upcoming meets. The schedule will be posted a few days before the meet and once it is posted you are responsible for finding your own coverage if you have a conflict. Please do not email me at the last minute and tell me that you will not be there. It really puts me and the team in a bind. If you make changes, please notify me. (Jill Johnson, 281 788-2240 or jmj4@sbcglobal.net)

The morning of the meet remember to check in with me (between 6:30 and 7:30 am) even if you are working the second shift. I will be located at the entrance of the large gates by the concessions.

Lastly... based on when you are available and your job preference submitted with registration, I try to assign all jobs fairly. There are several situations taken into consideration when making the schedule so I appreciate your patience and understanding, and most of your willingness to cover your shift and work where needed. all

Thanks again, your parental involvement is crucial to making these meets fun and successful. You guys are awesome!!!

GO ORCAs !!!



A Note from the Clerk**Sharon Marston**

Our season is off to a great start with our practice meet Saturday. We had 71 Champ times and 80 Reserve times on Saturday, compared with 52 Champ and 82 Reserve at last year's practice meet. In addition, we had two swimmers swim new Orca Records. Congratulations to Erin Johnson for swimming a record time of 00:18.60 in the 8&Under Girls 25 Yard Butterfly (previous record is 00:19.29), and to John Denson for swimming a record time of 00:19.83 in the 8&Under Boys 25 Yard Backstroke (previous record is 00:20.33) Remember this meet was not sanctioned by the League, so these Champ and Reserve times, and Orca Records don't count. Everyone will have to swim these times again to qualify for the Champ and Reserve Meets, as well as to officially set a new record. Disqualifications (DQ's) for stroke and turn infractions were written, but not reflected in the times for this meet. DQ's will be recorded for all future meets. DQ's are always a disappointment to a swimmer, so parents, please be prepared for this to happen. For the first two regular season meets DQ'd 8&Under swimmers will be given participation ribbons. After the first two regular season meets, no ribbon will be given.

Having the practice meet serves many purposes. It allows Coach Chris to get times on everyone for placement in the correct heats for the first official meet of the season. It gives our new families a chance to get used to how a meet runs and to the volunteer positions. And it also gives us the chance to work out the kinks in our home meet procedures prior to the first regular season meet. Scratches are always of interest to clerks, because scratches ALWAYS make a clerks job harder. At our Practice Meet, the boys won with only 5 scratches. Girls, girls, girls.....We need you to do a better job of notifying Coach Chris if you will not be attending a meet. With 20 scratches, you lost to the boys by a lot. Let's see if the girls can have fewer scratches than the boys at Baytown Meet. And let's see if as a team, we can beat the record least number of scratches from last year - 10. You would make you friendly neighborhood clerk VERY happy.

Thanks to all who came by the Clerk Table to check out. You helped the meet run more smoothly. For those who didn't check out, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE make sure you do at ALL future meets.

Goggles and Caps

I have noticed at our practices, and at our Practice Meet on Saturday that some swimmers aren't wearing goggles, and many swimmers aren't wearing caps. I have a few observations from my 6 years with a young swimmer.

First on goggles. After talking to adults who were swimmers and experiences with my own child, swimmers are extremely picky about their goggles. I have personally been through 8-9 different styles of Speedo and Tyr goggles before my son landed on his latest favorite, which has lasted for a month now. Some have lasted longer than others. I have a bucket full of cast offs in my utility room in case a friend comes to swim and needs a pair. For younger swimmers, choose a goggle that is sized for the smaller face of a child, not an adult pair that doesn't fit and leaks. Be prepared to adjust and readjust. It's just part of being the parent of a swimmer. If your child's goggles need adjusting, please try to help out so the coaches don't have to do this.

And on to caps and hair. I don't have to deal with this with a boy, but when girls with long hair don't put it back in a ponytail or wear a cap, they constantly stop to get it out of their eyes and face. Caps are recommended for ALL swimmers, girls AND boys. Caps help improve their times, keep hair contained and protect it from chlorine. They also are a visual aid to help our coaches see our swimmers when they are in the water. If you ordered a team cap, they are in the bags with your T-shirts that were distributed at the Practice Meet. For those who did not pick up T-shirts and caps at the Practice Meet, they will be available at the first meet.

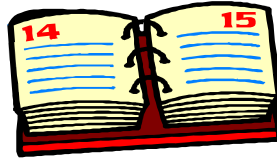
**Family Folders, Handbooks & Rosters**

Check out your family folder! The folders are at the Pine Brook pool and this week have ribbons from Saturdays meet, the picture order envelop and a current roster. The roster will assist you in finding a replacement if you cannot work your volunteer slot at one of our meets. (Please help Jill Johnson, our hardworking volunteer coordinator, by finding your own substitute if you can. It will make the meet run much more smoothly for everyone.)

If you were unable to make it to the Parent Meeting in April or who registered later, your Handbook will also be in the Family Folder. Throughout the season, they will contain miscellaneous fliers and information.

Important Upcoming Dates

- June 5: Home meet against Baytown
Swim Suit sales by A-Gleam
- June 7: Picture Day!
4:00 PM – Individual Pictures
5:00 PM – Group Picture
- June 12: Home meet against Pearland
- June 17: Mid-Season party at Pine Brook (more information to come)
7:00 – 10:00 PM
- June 19: Home meet against Brooks Blue Marlins
- June 26: Meet against Nassau Bay (an away meet, but at Pine Brook)
- July 3: Away meet at Clear Lake City Stars
- July 6: Last Chance meet, Galena Park
- July 10 – 11: Champ Series meet (plenty of more information to come)
- July 12: End of Season party at Incredible Pizza 6:00 p.m.



T-Shirts & Caps

All swimmers receive a t-shirt with registration. Many shirts were passed out this past Saturday, but will have them at our next home meet as well. Please stop by the volunteer check-in table to pick up your shirt (and cap if you bought one with registration) on June 5. We love to see our swimmers wearing their Orca pride.



Want to Receive Important, Emergency Information in a Timely Manner?

Problem: As many of you know, the Pine Brook pool was a little green this week, so we moved practice that day to Brookwood. (You parents handled that great, by the way). If you don't follow us on twitter (@pbworcas), you may have missed that important information and gone to the Pine Brook pool first. If you are interested in getting up-to-the minute emergency information such as practice location changes or cancellations due to weather, there is a way to receive text messages directly to your cell phone.

Solution: tXtBlaster is a text messaging program that will send out short, useful text messages directly to your cell phone. Standard messaging rates will apply. This feature will only be used for critical information to hopefully save you and your family time.

How to Sign Up: text 'pbworcas' to BLAST (25278) from the cell phone you want the text messages sent to. You can sign up more than one phone.

This is a very controlled program, and your cell phone number will not be shared with anyone. We are continually striving to improve our communication to make summer swim team a fun experience for everyone.

Smile! It's soon time for pictures!

Group Photography will be at the Pine Brook pool on Monday, June 7, for pictures. An order envelope is in your family folder. Individual pictures will start at 4:00 PM, and the group picture will be at 5:00. Individuals will continue after the group picture, so you don't need to come right at 4:00. There will be extra envelopes available at the pictures.

Concession Donations



Each family should donate one 12 pack of soda and one 12 pack of water. Please bring them to the Pine Brook pool store room this week during practice. Check your name off the list mounted on the bulletin board which is in the store room.

